

## MISSISSIPPI

1. Mississippi Foreign Language Professional Development Grant (FLIPD) – This project provides professional development through a series of 15 workshops around the state for a three-year period. Presented by the Mississippi Department of Education in collaboration with the Croft Institute for International Studies at the University of Mississippi and the Mississippi Foreign Language Association, these workshops provide all K-12 foreign language teachers with on-going professional development in the evolving best practices in foreign language education. Teachers have the opportunity to join a support network that continues beyond the workshops. The FLIPD project personnel participate in intensive professional development at the Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition (CARLA) Summer Institutes for Second Language Teachers as well as at the annual conferences of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) to incorporate the latest research-based practices. For more information, please contact April Harris Roberson, at (601) 359-2586.
2. Mississippi Foreign Language Curriculum Development Team – The Team, composed of over 30 French, German, Latin, and Spanish language educators from public schools, community colleges, and universities around the state, developed the *Mississippi Foreign Language Curriculum Framework*. The *Framework*, written within the context of the national standards, is a working document for educators to use at the district level to enhance their own programs. The *Framework* consists of state-required competencies, suggested objectives, and teaching strategies. It is designed to provide teachers with a user-friendly curriculum-planning guide from which specific learning activities can be developed. It does not advocate any particular methodology, pedagogy, learning style, or textbooks, but it is informed by the concept of proficiency-oriented instruction and assessment through levels of instruction, rather than grade levels. For more information, please contact April Harris Roberson, at (601) 359-2586.
3. Office of Innovative Support Programs – Mississippi Department of Education's English Language Learners Instructional Intervention Guide (Benchmarks, Informal Assessments, Strategies: Grades K-8); Mississippi Department of Education's A Handbook of Educational Services for English Language Learners; and Every Child A Reader (translated in Spanish). Through a CSRD Spanish Grant, there is Spanish instruction by tutors from the Mississippi University for Women (MUW) for grades 3, 4, 5, and Special Education classes. As part of this grant, Amory, Mississippi parents of the students receive instruction once a week by a MUW tutor; Saturday Spanish activities once a month for parents, students, tutors, and teachers; Summer Spanish camps; a school-wide Fiesta; and teacher "how to" sessions. For more information, please contact Peggy Buras, at (601) 359-3598.
4. Mississippi Social Studies Framework – The framework was developed in 1998 by over 30 teachers, college professors and administrators from all over the state of Mississippi. The Social Studies Curriculum is designed to be taught in a developmental sequence. This means that the instruction proceeds from the simple to the complex, beginning with the child's immediate geographic world and expanding to the world using history, civics, and economics to develop the child's knowledge and perspectives. The expanding theme that is incorporated in the framework refers to a curriculum progression in the study of people from self, families, communities, cities, regions, the United States to the world. The primary purpose of the framework is to promote an understanding of the world, human interaction, cultural diversity, cultural heritage, and to equip students with the knowledge and understanding of the past, which is essential for coping with the present and planning for the future. The framework is comprised of state-required competencies, suggested objectives, and teaching strategies. It is designed to provide teachers with a user-friendly curriculum guide from which learning strategies can be used in the classroom. The Mississippi Social Studies Framework can be

downloaded at <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us>. For more information, please contact Jennifer Nance, Social Studies Specialist with the Mississippi Department of Education at (601) 359-2586.

5. Civitas – The International Civic Education Exchange Program is a cooperative project of civic education organizations in the United States and emerging or established democracies throughout the world. The Civitas Exchange Program, which began in 1995, is administered by the Center for Civic Education and funded by the U.S. Department of Education under the Education Act approved by the United States Congress. The program is implemented worldwide in cooperation with the U.S. Department of State. The Civitas Exchange Program provides leaders in civic education opportunities to learn from and assist each other in improving education for democracy in their nations. Partnerships have been established among U.S. states and new and emerging democracies. Mississippi is partnered with Florida, Texas and Hungary. Civic education-related activities among these partners have included the development of lessons and other teaching resources, teacher training institutes, and student-centered academic competitions. Annual professional exchanges among the partners have benefited teachers, university faculty, NGO leaders, representatives from various governmental agencies, and other gatekeepers of democracy. For more information, please contact the Center for Civic Education, 5146 Douglas Fir Road, Calabasas, California, 91302-1467, or visit their website at [www.civnet.org](http://www.civnet.org) or [www.civiced.org](http://www.civiced.org).
6. Croft Institute for International Studies – The Institute, housed at the University of Mississippi, encourages teaching, research, and service activities in International Studies. The Institute ensures that its students, jointly enrolled in the Institute and in The University of Mississippi College of Liberal Arts, are prepared for leadership in business, public service, and other fields in an increasingly interdependent world. The Institute also serves the state and the region by providing workshops and other outreach activities in meeting the international and global challenges and opportunities facing them. For more information, please contact Charlene E. Dye at (662) 915-7956 or [cdye@olemiss.edu](mailto:cdye@olemiss.edu).

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